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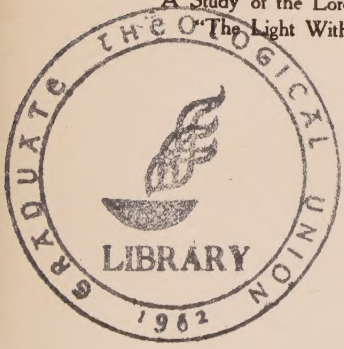
Prayers for Private and Family Use

By

CHARLES LEWIS SLATTERY

Author of "Why Men Pray," "How to Pray, A Study of the Lord's Prayer," "The Light Within," etc.



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To

My Dear Friends

the Parishioners of Grace Church in New York

for whom

Most of these Prayers

were Written

26737

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Preface

WHEN I became Rector of Grace Church in New York, a parishioner asked me if there might not be prayers which would voice individual needs more distinctly than the petitions of the Prayer Book, since these necessarily were for the needs of the whole congregation. Upon discovering more specifically what my parishioner had in mind, I framed the prayers as simply and concisely as I could. Almost every year since that time I have sent to the members of the congregation a leaflet similarly composed. I now allow these prayers, with others written under different circumstances, to be put into the form of a book.

These leaflets have been kept in the Porch of Grace Church, and each

year many thousands of them are carried away by those who pass through it. For, in addition to the people who come to formal services, we have discovered that, on an average, from four to five hundred enter the church each day for private devotion or for the reverent inspection of the building. I hope the leaflets help those who take them to pray in their own words the longing of their hearts.

I have been moved, now and again, by receiving a letter from some distant part of the world, saying that a leaflet, very much worn, which is enclosed in the letter, has been a comfort in the difficulties of life. The writer has noticed the name of Grace Church in the corner of the leaflet. Could I send a fresh copy? If not, will I carefully return the soiled and tattered paper, because it has helped. A person of large business interests told me that on each journey to New York from a home fifteen hundred miles away, there was always a visit to the Porch of Grace Church to see if a new leaflet had been put there. One finds how eager people are to pray.

It is interesting to notice how quickly prayers are copied in newspapers, leaflets, and formal collections. They suffer a change, not often it seems to me to their advantage, sometimes accidentally, sometimes by deliberate revision. Moreover, they are ascribed to different authors, in times far separated from the day when they were written. The prayers in this book have passed through all these experiences. A good many of them were copied by soldiers in the War, and were found, in their handwriting, upon their dead bodies; so that parents and friends supposed that these soldiers had composed them. I wish that they might claim such heroic authorship!

One reason for printing the prayers in a book is that I am told that a number of families are using the leaflets in the attempt to revive in their households the habit of family prayer—a habit broken for perhaps one or two generations. If they are so used, I suggest that the family begin their devotions with reading from the Gospels

one or two paragraphs a day in order;* then, all kneeling, the Lord's Prayer be said; then this collect from the Book of Common Prayer:

> O LORD, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings, being ordered by thy Governance, may be righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

And after this, one or two prayers from this book might be used; but the service should be short, so that it keep the heart and mind alert, and be the instrument of real prayer, which, in the deep silences of the soul, communes with God face to face.

GRACE CHURCH RECTORY,
NEW YORK,
28 July 1922

* A list of suggested readings is printed at the end of this book.

Prayers for a Day

FORENOON and afternoon and night,—
Forenoon,
And afternoon, and night,—Forenoon, and
—what!
The empty song repeats itself. No more?
Yea, that is Life: make this forenoon sublime,
This afternoon a psalm, this night a prayer,
And Time is conquered, and thy crown is won.

Edward Rowland Sill

A Prayer for Early Morning

ALMIGHTY God, grant that I may awake to the joy of this day, finding gladness in all its toil and difficulty, in all its pleasure and success, in all its failure and sorrow; cause me to throw open the windows of my life, that I may look always away from myself and behold the need of the world; give me the will and the strength to bring the gift of thy gladness to others of thy children, that with them I may stand to bear the burden and heat of the day and offer thee the praise of work well done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Afternoon

O GOD, my heavenly Father, who hast brought me thus far in safety; Comfort me with the remembrance of thy care. Lay not my misusing of the morning hours to my charge; while there is yet time, let me bring the day to victory. When I am weary and faint-hearted, inspire me with the vision of thy purpose for my life; when I am tempted, make me strong; when I complain, teach me thy patience; when I forget, remind me of thy love. And so, O Lord, bring me to the end of this day in the joy with which it began, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Night

O LORD, who watchest over thy children while they sleep; Receive me and all I love into thy keeping; forgive us wherein we have been ungrateful; wherein we have done our best grant that we may forget our failure. Be a resting-place for all who are in any trouble. Defend great causes in Church and Nation, for that without thee those who watch them wake in vain. Guard the workers of the night, keeping far from them the powers of darkness; and to all others grant the gift of sleep, that when the morning cometh the whole world may rejoice in thy light; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

OUR life is but an autumn sun,
Its glorious noon, how quickly past;
Lead us, O Christ, our life-work done,
Safe home at last;

Where saints are clothed in spotless white,
And evening shadows never fall,
Where Thou, eternal Light of Light,
Art Lord of all.

Godfrey Thring

Prayers for Little Children to Say

HERE a little child I stand
Heaving up my either hand;
Cold as paddocks though they be,
Here I lift them up to Thee,
For a benison to fall
On our meat and on us all. Amen.

Robert Herrick

A Morning Prayer

O GOD, make me glad all the day long; and, when the night cometh, let me fall asleep thinking of thy goodness and thy love; for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

A Prayer for a Child Who is Hurt

O GOD, who seest me; Make me brave; for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

A Prayer for a Child Who is Afraid

O GOD, who art always with me in the darkness and in the light; Tell me now that thou art here; for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

A Night Prayer

O GOD, who lovest me all the day and all the night; Bless all I love, and keep them happy, keep them good; and tomorrow make me obedient, unselfish, and kind; for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

Prayers for Boys at School

GOD, who created me
Nimble and light of limb,
In three elements free,
To run, to ride, to swim:
Not when the sense is dim,
But now from the heart of joy,
I would remember Him:
Take the thanks of a boy.

Jesu, King and Lord,
Whose are my foes to fight,
Gird me with Thy sword
Swift and sharp and bright.
Thee would I serve if I might;
And conquer if I can.
From day-dawn till night,
Take the strength of a man.

Henry Charles Beeching

A Prayer for a Strong Body

O GOD, who hast made me; Grant me thy gift of health, that with a strong body I may fight for the right and the true, and be thy faithful soldier and servant unto my life's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for a Clean Heart

ALMIGHTY God, drive from me all unclean thoughts, keep my lips from all wicked words, and in every temptation save me by the remembrance of thy Son Jesus Christ, glorious in purity and strength, my Master and my King. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Loyalty

ALMIGHTY God, grant me thy gift of loyalty. For my Home give me love and obedience; for my Country, sacrifice and service; for my Church, reverence and devotion; and in everything make me true to thee; through thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Kinsfolk

O FATHER, who art the protector of all the families of the earth; Guard this day all I love; keep them from sin; shield them from the bitterness of pain and sorrow; and, if darkness come, gladden them with thy light and thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Kindness

GRANT, O Lord, that in all the joy of my life I may never forget to be kind. Help me to be unselfish in friendship, thoughtful of those less happy than myself, and eager to bear the burdens of others; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

A Prayer for a Purpose in Life

O GOD, who hast called me to thy service; Show me thy purpose for my life; though it be hard, make me long to follow it; and give me courage to persevere till, at the last, I reach the goal which thou hast set for me; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers Before Public Worship

¶ *These verses were sent to the Rector of Grace Church anonymously in May, 1911. They may perhaps express the feeling of others who enter their own Church.*

O HOUSE of God, which stands so calm and fair,
Amid the turmoil and the noise and strife!
Within thy doors are hope and peace and rest;
Without, the struggle and the pain call'd life.

How wonderful it is to turn aside,
And kneel before thine altar lost in prayer,
Yet know that just outside lie tragedy
And strangely mingled laughter and despair.

Well art thou nam'd, thou stately Church of Grace,
So calmly standing midst life's wild alarms;
May we like thee wait trusting in our place,
May we be folded close in God's own arms.

A Prayer on Entering Church

O GOD, who makest thyself known in the stillness; Let me feel thy presence in this sacred place; make me to be of the company of brave saints who have worshipped here in spirit and in truth; through the voices of men and the instruments of praise give me to lift my heart to thee; and so, O Lord, purify my life that, going forth into the world, I may go in thy strength and in thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Guidance in Uncertainty

ALMIGHTY God, grant that in times of uncertainty thy Holy Spirit may take from me all selfishness and compromise, and guide me to the choice that is right; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Nearness to Christ

ALMIGHTY God, who hast sent thy Son into the world to be for ever the friend of mankind; Grant to me the consciousness of his presence, that, receiving his power, I may conquer temptations and troubles, and rise with strength to do thy will; through the same Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Will to Believe

O GOD, who hast taught me to trust in thee as my loving Father; Open my heart to share that most daring faith which thou hast revealed to thy servants in all ages, till the littleness of my knowledge is lost in the greatness of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers Before the Holy Communion

'TWAS August, and the fierce sun overhead
Smote on the squalid streets of Bethnal Green,
And the pale weaver, through his windows seen
In Spitalfields, look'd thrice dispirited.

I met a preacher there I knew, and said:
"Ill and o'erworked, how fare you in this scene?"
"Bravely!" said he; "for I of late have been
Much cheer'd with thoughts of Christ, *the living bread.*"

O human soul! as long as thou canst so
Set up a mark of everlasting light,
Above the howling senses' ebb and flow,

To cheer thee and to right thee if thou roam—
Not with lost toil thou labourest through the night!
Thou mak'st the heaven thou hop'st indeed thy home.

Matthew Arnold

A Prayer for Repentance

ALMIGHTY God, give me to search and to find all that is wrong in my life. Let me be satisfied with nothing less than to be perfect as thou, O Father, art perfect in heaven. I am not worthy to eat so much as the crumbs which fall from the feast of thy love; for I have grieved thee with my wrong doing; even more have I grieved thee with my feeble hands when I could have done valiant deeds in thy Name, with my silence when I could have spoken for the right and the true, with my empty heart when I could have filled it with thoughts of thee. Regard not my deeds, my words, my thoughts; but have respect only to my will to forsake my sin; and so wilt thou, O God, receive me; and grant me power in the fellowship of the Perfect to amend my life; through Jesus Christ my Saviour. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Love and Charity With All Men

O GOD, who in thy Son Jesus Christ hast revealed thyself the God of love; Grant to me such a share of thy perfect charity as shall enable me to forgive all who have done or wish me evil. If any man hath cursed me, give me grace to bless him; if any man hath hated me, give me grace to do him good; if any man hath despitefully used me and persecuted me, give me grace to pray for him. And so, O Father, admit me to the feast of thy Son's love, for that, forgetting all injuries and stings of this life, and remembering only his infinite patience, I would be clad in the robes of his love, and thereby become an acceptable guest at the table of him who giveth me power to overcome the world, my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A Prayer for a New Life

O LORD God Almighty, whose Son did not give to the world the feast of the broken bread and the outpoured wine before he had offered his own life to be broken on the cross and his own blood to be poured out on Calvary; Grant to me, that as I enter the joy of his feast, I may carry in my heart the price of that joy, and give my life to be broken and my blood to be outpoured, whereby my friends and neighbours, living more abundantly by the gift of myself, may with me attain to the benefit of the full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

A Prayer to be Filled With Christ

O GOD, who dost govern the thoughts of men; Bring to my mind the upper room where the Lord Jesus broke the bread with his disciples in the night before he was crucified; grant to me that, being of that company, I may look into the face of him who gave himself for the world. While I eat of his bread and drink of his cup, fill my life with his life, and send me forth to think his thoughts, to say his words, to do his deeds; and so, O blessed Father, grant that, though I know it not, the light of his face may shine in my face, and all men may take note that I have been with Jesus; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, the God of everlasting love, world without end. *Amen.*

Prayers for a Home

A BOY was born at Bethlehem
That knew the haunts of Galilee.
He wandered on Mount Lebanon,
And learned to love each forest tree.

But I was born at Marlborough,
And love the homely faces there;
And for all other men besides
'Tis little love I have to spare.

I should not mind to die for them,
My own dear downs, my comrades true,
But that great heart of Bethlehem,
He died for men he never knew.

And yet, I think at Golgotha,
As Jesus' eyes were closed in death,
They saw with love most passionate,
The village-street at Nazareth.

A Prayer on Entering a New Home

O LORD Jesus, who didst enter the home of thy friends in Bethany, sharing its sorrow and its joy; Enter, we pray thee, this house as its perpetual guest. Grant that mirth and gladness may be an offering to thee, even as prayer and praise. Grant to all who rest beneath this roof refreshment and strength whereby they may go forth to bolder service in thy Name. And should days of darkness befall, turn them, O Christ, to days of light, opening our eyes to see thy bright presence even in the blackness of this world's night. And so, O Lord, lead us day by day to closer fellowship with thee, who art, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, the God of Love and Peace and Joy, world without end. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Our Children

ALMIGHTY God, bless, we beseech thee, the children and youth of this house. Grant to all who are appointed to teach them the will and the power rightly to instruct them, that as they grow in years, they may increase in faith, courage, and love. Keep their lips undefiled, and preserve their bodies in temperance, soberness, and chastity. Grant them at length to become true servants to this Nation and to thy Church; and give them always to confess as their Master, thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Patience

O GOD, our Father, who bearest with us though we bitterly offend; Grant to us patience with one another, that we may cast away all fretfulness and complaining and whatsoever hinders the course of brotherly kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer to be Free from Worry

O LORD, who hast pity for all our weakness; Put from us worry and all misgiving, that having done our best while it was day, we may, when night cometh, commit ourselves, our tasks, and all we love into thy keeping, so receiving, as from thee, the gift of sleep; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

Prayers for the City

JUDGE eternal, throned in splendour,
Lord of lords and King of kings,
With thy living fire of judgment
Purge this land of bitter things;
Solace all its wide dominion
With the healing of thy wings.

Still the weary folk are pining
For the hour that brings release,
And the city's crowded clangour
Cries aloud for sin to cease;
And the homesteads and the woodlands
Plead in silence for their peace.

Crown, O God, thine own endeavour;
Cleave our darkness with thy sword;
Feed the faint and hungry heathen
With the richness of thy word;
Cleanse the body of this nation
Through the glory of the Lord.

Henry Scott Holland

A Prayer for Good Government

O GOD, whose blessed Son wept over the sins of Jerusalem; Grant to us searchings of heart because of the sins of this community; vouchsafe to us such officers as shall, without fear or favour, boldly maintain the law; so that truth and morality, religion and honour may be established among us for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Lonely People

O HEAVENLY Father, who wast with thy Son when all his companions were scattered; Be with me in my loneliness. Though I be far from my kindred and friends, join me to them in thy love, and do for them what I dare not ask. Comfort us all with the presence of thy Son our Saviour, whom, through thy Holy Spirit, thou dost send to be the friend of all who are sad and forsaken. And so, at the last, O Lord, refresh my soul with gratitude for this loneliness, which now seemeth only to be grievous; for that, bringing me near to thee, it hath caused me to speak, and thou hast heard me and hast showed me marvellous great kindness in a strong city; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for People who Toil

ALMIGHTY God, who in thy love ever toilest for me in making this world my home, and who didst send thy Son to labour with his hands among the children of men; Grant that I may know the dignity of honest work. When I am weary, comfort me with the remembrance that I have not shirked. When I am ill rewarded, keep far from me selfishness and bitterness, and give to me sympathy with all who suffer wrong, that for their sakes I may plead in thy Name for justice and love among all classes of men. And when night cometh, if I have done my duty, let me not be anxious for the morrow, because thou art my Father and wilt keep me and those whom I love in perfect peace; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Tempted People

O HOLY Spirit, who sufferest me to be tempted that I may be strong; Take from my heart all self-pity and excuses; enlighten my mind with thy vision of purity and honour and love; and give to my whole being the power so to fight my besetting sin that, though I be scarred, I may win the victory of my Master, Jesus Christ; to whom, with thee and the Father, be all the loyalty of my life, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayers for a World at War

ONCE to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth with falsehood,
For the good or evil side.
By the light of burning martyrs
Jesus' bleeding feet I track,
Toiling up new Calvaries ever
With the cross that turns not back.

Though the cause of evil prosper,
Yet 'tis truth alone is strong;
Though her portion be the scaffold,
And upon the throne be wrong,
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above his own.

James Russell Lowell

THOUGH love repine, and reason chafe,
There came a voice without reply,—
"'Tis man's perdition to be safe,
When for the truth he ought to die."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

A Prayer for the Allied Nations

ALMIGHTY God, grant that we and they who fight at our side may so keep our hands from all dishonour, that we may dare to ask of thee the victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for our Warriors

O GOD, our refuge and strength; Bless all who contend for the right and the true; keep them safe from all evil; grant them skill and courage in battle; heal their wounds; assuage their pain; and whenever, soon or late, in days of war or in days of peace, thou openest to them the gates of larger life, receive them again into thy joyful service, to win with thee and thy servants everywhere the eternal victory of all good over all wickedness; through our only Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Doctors and Nurses and Drivers of Ambulances

ALMIGHTY God, who dost send thy servants upon errands of mercy; Bless all who minister to the suffering caused by war; keep them safe in all danger; and give them strength and love to heal in thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Chaplains

O GOD, give grace and power, we beseech thee, to the ministers of thy Word in all fleets and armies; inspire them with patience, kindness, and wisdom, that they may reveal to those whom they serve that in all times and in all places thou carest for them; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Loyalty

O GOD, our ruler and king; Put to silence the voices of foolish men in this nation; kindle the spirit of sacrifice, loyalty, and unity, that we may go forth in thy might to win freedom for the oppressed; through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Government

O LORD, open the eyes of those who govern this nation that they may see thy purpose, and grant them obedience speedily to fulfil it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Those at Home

O HEAVENLY Father, who didst sustain thy most dear Son upon the cross; Give courage and faith to those who in the time of war abide at home; make their love a beacon to those who struggle in the night of battle; whereby both together may receive from thee the praise of deeds well done; through our Redeemer Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Peace

BLESSED Lord, whose pity never faileth; Forgive the sins of the nations, and grant to them a righteous and enduring peace, out of which shall flow happiness to the people for evermore; for the love of thine only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Prayers for the Church

THROUGH the night of doubt and sorrow
Onward goes the pilgrim band,
Singing songs of expectation,
Marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness
Gleams and burns the guiding light,
Brother clasps the hand of brother,
Stepping fearless through the night.

One, the light of God's own presence,
O'er His ransomed people shed,
Chasing far the gloom and terror,
Brightening all the path we tread:
One, the object of our journey,
One, the faith which never tires,
One, the earnest looking forward,
One, the hope our God inspires.

S. Baring Gould

A Prayer for the Individual

O LORD, I pray thee, make me a living member of thy kingdom, daily finding ways to serve thee, that by word and deed I may strengthen thy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Parish

ALMIGHTY God, pour thy heavenly grace, I beseech thee, upon my Parish Church; grant to its officers a vision of its greater work; and to every member of the same give the will and the strength to bring this vision into life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Diocese

O GOD, whose love reacheth unto the ends of the world; Bless, I pray thee, this Diocese; and grant that all who share its benefit may show forth thy glory by deeds and by gifts for the spread of thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Whole Church

O ETERNAL God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst establish the family of thy Church in all the world; Breathe upon it anew the gifts of thy Holy Spirit, that, awaking to thy command, it may go forth in lowly service and in conquering might to win mankind to the love of thy Name; through our only Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Prayers for Great Causes in the Nation and the World

MINE eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord:
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword.
His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment-seat
O! be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubliant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

Julia Ward Howe

A Prayer for a Christian World

ALMIGHTY God, who didst send thy Son into the world to be the King of Love; Grant us, by our gifts and by our prayers, to be joined to thy servants who in far places are telling thy children of him; till both we and those whom thou hast given us shall be gathered about his throne; through the same Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Nurses Graduating from a Hospital

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, the Author of life, of health, and of safety; Look down with the eyes of thy mercy, and hallow with thy presence this Hospital, that through thy grace it may minister to those who are oppressed in mind and body. Grant to the Trustees and Officers wisdom and prudence to order and direct its affairs in accordance with thy will. Bless and sustain the Physicians and the Nurses and all members of this household, that they may duly execute their several duties in thy fear and love. And to those who this night go forth trained and furnished for a great work in thy Name give thy blessing and thy protection, that with pity and with patience and with skill they may lighten the weariness and pain of many of thy children, that many through their care may be restored to health and service in

this world, and that all to whom they minister may by them be cheered and helped in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Russia

O GOD, who didst send thy Son to make us free; Guard, we pray thee, the freedom of thy Russian children; deliver them from false counsel; stablish them in righteous order; and raise up leaders, brave and strong, who shall fashion them into a mighty nation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Enemies of Freedom

O FATHER of every nation; Give to the enemies of freedom the liberty which thou hast given us; deliver them from rulers who exercise lordship and tyranny; and grant them to see with joy the coming of government of the people, by the people, for the people in the whole earth, wherein they and we shall be brethren together under one Master, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Oppressed

O GOD, who art Lord of lords and King of kings; Grant thy protection to the weak and oppressed of the earth; until the whole world is filled with thy freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Nation

O GOD, who didst guide our fathers through hardship and courage into this land of freedom; Grant that we may quit ourselves like men and be ready to contend with our lives, if need be, for the keeping of that which our fathers have won, for the sake of thy children everywhere; through him who by his sacrifice hath made us free, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Righteousness in the World

ALMIGHTY God, make men to hate that which is bad in thought, word, and deed; make them to love that which is good; make them to stand up for the right and the true, as brave soldiers of Christ; and, day by day, make them faithful members of his Kingdom the Church; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers for Men and Women in Trouble

BE brave to live. Desponding heart, be strong,—
Strong to submit, to trust, to wait;
Our God is true, although His times be long
And hope's fulfillment late.
Hid by the misty curtain from thy view,
The years seem boundless, but a Hand
Which cannot fail shall guide thy feet all through
That undiscovered land.

Make not of work a labour. God is good.
What strength He asks, He ready stands to give.
Less by their fears, more by their love, He would
Have all his children live.
And thee He loveth; stronger love is not;
Earth cannot give a peace so deep.
Then calmly live, take patiently thy lot,
And God thy spirit keep.

William Reed Huntington

A Prayer for Those in Pain

O GOD, whose blessed Son endured the bitterness of the cross; Grant that all thy servants in pain may remember him, receiving strength from his strength, till they all partake of his victory; through the same Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Those in Mental Darkness

MOST merciful Father, send out thy light to thy children who grope in thick darkness; turn the night of their despair into the morning of thy hope, and cause them to rest in thee, for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

A Prayer for All We Love

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace to trust to thy never-failing care and love those who are dear to us, for this life and the life to come; knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Peace

ALMIGHTY God, who hast taught us that they who mourn shall be comforted; Grant that in all our grief we may turn to thee; and, because our need is beyond the help of men, grant us the peace of thy consolation and the joy of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Those who have Vanished from this World

O GOD, who art our Father for ever and ever; Bless my beloved who, through the gate of death, have passed into thy nearer presence. Tell them my love, and grant me to know their love. In ways I cannot fathom grant me to help them, even as they are permitted to help me. Give to them such happiness as this world can never know; and, beyond all my power to ask, grant them to be noble and great in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Heavenly Vision

LORD, we pray thee that thou wilt open our eyes to behold the heaven that lies about us, wherein they walk who, being born to the new life, serve thee with the clearer vision and the greater joy; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

Thanksgivings

HOW good is man's life, the mere living! how fit to employ
All the heart and the soul and the senses forever in joy!
Hast thou loved the white locks of thy father, whose sword thou didst guard
When he trusted thee forth with the armies, for glorious reward?
Didst thou see the thin hands of thy mother, held up as men sung
The low song of the nearly-departed, and hear her faint tongue
Joining in while it could to the witness, 'Let one more attest,
I have lived, seen God's hand through a lifetime, and all was for best'?
Then they sang thro' their tears in strong triumph, not much, but the rest.

Robert Browning

A Thanksgiving for a Happy Day

O GOD, who hast put me into thy beautiful world, sparing me this day all sorrow and pain; Grant that I may remember this thy great goodness with thanksgiving. Take from me all false security in mine own strength, and daily increase my reliance upon thee. Through me bring the gift of thy joy to all who are near me, especially the burdened and oppressed. And when darkness overtaketh me, keep me mindful of the brightness in which I now walk, that, in the blackness of the world's night as in the glory of the morning, I may abide in thine everlasting light, and evermore give thanks unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Evil

O GOD, whose blessed Son hath taught us to pray to thee for deliverance from evil; I thank thee for the victory which thou hast given me this day. When companions bade me enter into temptation, when the thoughts of my heart caught fire, when the wicked deed was well nigh done, thou, O Lord, didst shew me thy beauty and thy love; and, as the swift bird ascendeth from the snare of the fowler, so I flew, as on wings of light, into thy heaven, and now, O Father, with thee I am safe. Wherefore I give thee unfeigned thanks; through Jesus Christ, my King. *Amen.*

A Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Peril

ALMIGHTY God, who, in my peril, hast given thine angels charge over me to keep me in all my ways; I praise and glorify thy holy Name for this thy mercy, and most humbly beseech thee that, as thou hast set thy love upon me, thou wilt enable me to exalt thee, not only with my lips, but with my whole life; so that all my days may be to thee for a thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ my Saviour. *Amen.*

A Thanksgiving for a Sudden Great Joy

O HEAVENLY Father, the memorial of whose abundant kindness is from generation to generation; I bless thy Name for the joy with which on this day thou hast crowned my life. Grant me to live henceforth as becometh one to whom thou hast given honour and gladness; that, through loving and unselfish service to men, I may declare thy power, thy glory, and the mightiness of thy kingdom; through him who, when he was ready to mount the throne of his cross for the joy that was set before him, knelt most lovingly to wash the feet of his disciples, Jesus Christ, the radiant Master of the world, both now and evermore. *Amen.*

Passages from the Bible for Family Prayers

WHEN Jesus came to Golgotha they
hanged Him on a tree,
They drave great nails through hands and
feet and made a Calvary.
They crowned Him with a crown of thorns,
red were His wounds and deep,
For those were crude and cruel days, and
human flesh was cheap.

When Jesus came to Birmingham they simply
passed Him by,
They never hurt a hair of Him, they only let
Him die.
For men had grown more tender and they
would not give Him pain,
They only just passed down the street, and
left Him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, 'Forgive them, for they
know not what they do,'
And still it rained the winter rain that
drenched Him through and through,
The crowds went home and left the streets
without a soul to see,
And Jesus crouched against a wall and cried
for Calvary.

Hear the words of a great Prophet, who, hundreds of years before the coming of Christ, spoke of the hope in the heart of the ancient world.

COMFORT ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: and the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: the

grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Hear the song of the Mother of Jesus, which she sang when she knew that the hope of the world was soon to be fulfilled.

MY soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath

holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the birth of the Lord Jesus.

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife. And so it was, that, while they were there, she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon

them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them : and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not : for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Hear the song of the aged Simeon which he sang in the Temple when he saw the Child Jesus and took Him up in his arms and blessed God.

THERE was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel : and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple : and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word : for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And

Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the visit of the Wise Men to our Lord Jesus while yet He was a little Child.

WHEN Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa, in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea : for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, art not the least among the princes of Judea : for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had

privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the visit of the Child Jesus to Jerusalem when He was twelve years old.

NOW his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they

saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Hear the words of the Gospel, which record the Baptism of our Lord.

THE beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; as it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; and preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall

baptize you with the Holy Ghost. And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the temptation of our Lord in the wilderness, after His Baptism.

THEN was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down : for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee : and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the

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Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the Lord's calling of His first disciples.

JESUS, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

Hear the words of the Gospel, which record the story of Nicodemus who came to see Jesus secretly.

THERE was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: the same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind

bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Hear the words of the Gospel, which record the praise which the Lord Jesus gave to John the Baptist who had prepared the way for Him.

NOW when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, and said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see : the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings'

houses. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

Hear the words of the Gospel, wherein we learn of our Lord's return to the town where he had lived as a boy and young man.

JESUS came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the great confession of Simon Peter, declaring that Jesus is the Christ.

WHEN Jesus came into the coasts of Cæsarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of

heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the transfiguration of our Saviour on the mountain top.

AND it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering. And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem. But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him. And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said. While he thus

spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording one of the healing miracles of our Saviour.

AND it came to pass, as Jesus went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: and they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the way in which our Saviour replied to men who accused Him of keeping low company.

THEN drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no

repentance. Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Hear the words of the Lord Jesus, telling His disciples that He is the good Shepherd of His sheep.

JESUS said, I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one flock, and one shepherd.

Hear the words of the Lord Jesus, telling His disciples who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

AT the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by

whom the offence cometh! Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

Hear the words of Jesus our Master to Peter concerning the reward given to those who give up all things for His sake.

PETER answered and said unto Jesus, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Hear the words of the Gospel, which record the anointing of our Saviour by a woman in the house of Simon at Bethany.

BEING in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as Jesus sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head. And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? for it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her. And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her. And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the triumphant entry of the Lord Jesus into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday.

WHEN they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them. All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass. And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, and brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon. And

a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strewed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee. And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them that sold doves, and said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the manner of our Saviour's instituting the Lord's Supper.

THE disciples of Jesus went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. And in the evening he cometh with the twelve. And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I? And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish. The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born. And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when

he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God. And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

Hear the words with which our Saviour comforted His disciples on the night before He died.

AND Jesus said unto his disciples, Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus

saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the agony of our Lord Jesus in Gethsemane on the night in which He was betrayed.

THEY came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and Jesus saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; and saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt. And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldst not thou watch one hour? Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The

spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words. And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him. And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand. And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead him away safely. And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him. And they laid their hands on him, and took him. And one of them that stood

by drew a sword, and smote a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. And Jesus answered and said unto them, Are ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and with staves, to take me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled. And they all forsook him, and fled.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the trial of the Lord Jesus in the palace of the high priest.

THEY led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes. And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire. And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. But neither so did their witness agree together. And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it

which these witness against thee? But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophesy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

Hear the words of the Gospel recording the trial of our Lord Jesus before Pilate the Roman Governor.

AND straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate. And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest it. And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing. And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee. But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled. Now at that feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired. And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection. And the multitude cry-

ing aloud began to desire him to do as he had ever done unto them. But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews? For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy. But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them. And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom we call the King of the Jews? And they cried out again, Crucify him. Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him. And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified. And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Prætorium; and they call together the whole band. And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, and began to salute

him, Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the death of our Lord Jesus.

AND when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, and saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. And a superscription also was written over him, in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answer-

ing rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise. And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording the manner of the burial of the body of our Saviour by a certain rich man.

WHEN the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: he went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre. Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

Hear the words of the Gospel, which record the glorious resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

WHEN the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and

Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

Hear the words of the Gospel, which record the walk of the risen Jesus to Emmaus with two of His disciples.

BEHOLD, two of his disciples went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus

of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel; and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; and when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things

concerning himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

Hear the Commission of our Saviour to Simon Peter, after the resurrection.

JESUS saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Hear the words of the Gospel, recording our Lord's ascension into heaven.

THE former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: to whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: and, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this

time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith.

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Hear the words of the Lord Jesus, by which we learn how we may show our love towards God.

THEN shall the King say, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Hear the words of our Saviour, in which we learn what it means "to love thy neighbour as thyself."

AND, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him,

he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Hear the words of our Lord Christ in which we learn how great may be the love of man.

GREATER love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain.

Hear the words of our Saviour concerning the duty of all men to forgive to the uttermost.

PETER said unto Jesus, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and

found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: shouldst not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Hear the words of our Master, Jesus Christ, in which we learn who are the happy people of the world.

JESUS seeing the multitudes, went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him; and he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of

evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Hear the words of the Gospel, wherein we learn the love of Jesus for little children.

THEY brought young children to Christ, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Hear the parable of our Lord Jesus, in which He tells us to pray in humility before God.

JESUS spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Hear the words of Jesus Christ, concerning worldliness and worry.

NO man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (for after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Hear the parable of the Lord Jesus, concerning the love of our heavenly Father.

A CERTAIN man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will

say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come;

and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and entreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment; and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: but as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

Hear the oldest written testimony to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, recorded in Saint Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

BRETHREN, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out

of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

Hear the words of Saint Paul, in which we learn how great is the love of God.

WHO shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Hear the words of Saint Paul concerning love.

THOUGH I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether

there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Hear the words of John of Patmos, repeating what he heard in his vision.

I HEARD a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it:

and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Hear the ancient song declaring God's care of His people.

GOD is our hope and strength: a very present help in trouble.

Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved: and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;

Though the waters thereof rage and swell: and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.

The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God: the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most Highest.

God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed: God shall help her, and that right early.

Be still then, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be exalted in the earth.

The LORD of Hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Hear the words of the man who was both shepherd and poet, as he sings of God.

THE LORD is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Hear the words of the ancient singer of Israel, concerning a righteous man, acceptable to God.

THE earth is the LORD'S, and all that therein is: the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas: and prepared it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD: or who shall rise up in his holy place?

Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart: and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbour.

He shall receive the blessing from the LORD: and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of them that seek him: even of them that seek thy face, O Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory: It is the

LORD strong and mighty, even the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory: Even the LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Hear the song of the man who rejoiced in God.

THE LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear: the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

One thing have I desired of the LORD, which I will require: even that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the LORD, and to visit his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle: yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone.

And now shall he lift up mine head: above mine enemies round about me.

Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation, with great gladness: I will sing and speak praises unto the LORD.

Hearken unto my voice, O LORD,

when I cry unto thee: have mercy upon me, and hear me.

My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face: Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

O hide not thou thy face from me: nor cast thy servant away in displeasure.

Thou hast been my succour: leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

I should utterly have fainted: but that I believe verily to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

O tarry thou the LORD'S leisure: be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the LORD.

Hear the song of a great poet who out of the depths of the misery of life cried unto God and found Him.

OUT of the deep have I called unto thee, O LORD: Lord, hear my voice.

O let thine ears consider well: the voice of my complaint.

If thou, LORD, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss: O Lord, who may abide it?

For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be feared.

I look for the LORD; my soul doth wait for him: in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord: before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the LORD; for with the LORD there is mercy: and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel: from all his sins.

Hear the words of the poet telling of the safety of those who live under God's protection.

WHOSO dwelleth under the defence of the Most High: shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say unto the LORD, Thou art my hope, and my stronghold: my God, in him will I trust.

For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter: and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his feathers: his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night: nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

For the pestilence that walketh in darkness: nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noonday.

A thousand shall fall beside thee,

and ten thousand at thy right hand: but it shall not come nigh thee.

Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold: and see the reward of the ungodly.

For thou, LORD, art my hope: thou hast set thine house of defence very high.

There shall no evil happen unto thee: neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee: to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee in their hands: that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him up, because he hath known my Name.

He shall call upon me, and I will hear him: yea, I am with him in

trouble; I will deliver him, and bring him to honour.

With long life will I satisfy him: and show him my salvation.

Hear the words of an ancient poet concerning his trust in God.

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh even from the LORD: who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel: shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD himself is thy keeper: the LORD is thy defence upon thy right hand;

So that the sun shall not burn thee by day; neither the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in: from this time forth for evermore.

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